

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 AID-20 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EURE-00 NEA-14 EB-11 DRC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4965

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: OPIUM POPPIES: GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS: PRESS COVERAGE

REF ANKARA 5361

SUMMARY: STATEMENTS BY GOT SPOKESMEN AND TURK MEDIA GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO GOT DECISION TO RESUME OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND US REACTION THERETO. END SUMMARY.

1. DPEUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN STATED TO PRESS ON JULY 7 THAT "IT IS NATUR-

AL THAT TURKEY SHOULD COUNT ON US PROPOSALS TO SUPERVISE THE CULTIVATION OF POPPY SEEDS". ERBAKAN NOTED THAT TURKEY HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION BECAUSE OF INCREASING DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY OPIUM FOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. IN THIS CONNECTION, GOT WOULD ALSO CONSIDER PRODUCTION OF ALKALOIDS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL

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PURPOSES. DEPUTY PRIMIN STRESSED THAT HIS GOVT WOULD INSTITUTE

STRICT CONTROLS OVER OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION.

2. PRIMIN ECEVIT, IN INTERVIEW WITH JULY 8 EDITION OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE YEDI GUN, OBSERVED THAT TURKEY'S DECISION TO RESUME OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION WAS NOT AIMED AGAINST THE US, BUT WAS "AN INEVITABLE REQUIREMENT OF THE REALITIES IN TURKEY". US-TURKISH RELATIONS, ECEVIT CONTINUED, WERE ESTABLISHED ON A FOUNDATION TOO STRONG TO BE SPOILED BY TURK DECISION; THESE RELATIONS WERE IMPORTANT BOTH BILATERALLY AND FOR PEACE OF WORLD. JULY 6 MILLIYET QUOTES ECEVIT IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH CBS AS STATING THAT OPIUM POPPY BAN CANNOT BE MAINTAINED "IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY AGAINST THE WISHES OF PEOPLE". PRIMIN REPORTEDLY REMARKED THAT BAN HAD BEEN IMPOSED DURING PERIOD WHEN TURKISH DEMOCRACY WAS IN CRISIS. HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS STATING THAT TURKISH PEASANT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OPIUM TRAFFICKING, AND THAT GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTROL PRODUCTION.

3. TOURISM MINISTER AND GOVT SPOKESMAN BIRGIT SAID IN SPEECH ON JULY 7 THAT TURKEY "WILL TAKE ALL KINDS OF MEASURES", WITH ASSISTANCE FROM UN EXPERTS, TO PREVENT ILLICIT DIVERSION OF OPIUM.

4. JULY 8 EDITION OF HURRIYET CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY THAT US CONGRESS AND MEDIA HAVE LAUNCHED ANTI-TURKISH CAMPAIGN, WITH SENATOR BUCKLEY REQUESTING PRESIDENT TO TERMINATE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HURRIYET ALSO PICKS UP JULY 6 NEW YORK DAILY NEWS ARTICLE THAT TURKEY HAS STABBED US IN THE BACK. JULY 7 ISSUE OF CUMHURİYET PREDICTS THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WILL RETURN TO TURKEY WITH NEW PROPOSALS, AND THAT THIS WILL SIGNAL NEW PHASE IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS. WEEKEND EDITORIAL COVERAGE ON POPPY ISSUE IS INTENSE; GENERAL THEMES ARE THAT TURKEY IS JUSTIFIED IN DECIDING TO RESUME OPIUM PRODUCTION, AND THAT US WILL PUT PRESSURE ON ECEVIT GOVT.

5. FINALLY, SEVERAL PAPERS ON JULY 7 PICKED UP UPI STORY OF SAME DATE, WHICH QUOTES MFA OFFICIAL AS STATING THAT "IT IS A NATURAL PRACTICE FOR THE US GOVT TO CALL BACK ITS AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULTATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE TURKISH GOVT'S DECISION TO PERMIT THE CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY". OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT GOT FROM TIME TO TIME, WHEN NECESSARY, RECALLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS OWN AMBASSADORS FOR CONSULTATIONS. COMMENT: A FEW PAPERS SEEM TO HAVE DROPPED SPOKESMAN'S LINKAGE OF RECALL WITH RESCISSION OPIUM BAN AND SIMPLY STATED RECALL WAS "NATURAL". WE ARE TAKING MEASURES COUNTER THIS ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION.
SPAIN

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